GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:281
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR;VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has made certain recommendations to the Union Government to involve the private sector in the procurement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have a proposal to bring about comprehensive reforms in the procurement policy; and

(d) if so, the proposal mooted by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c)&(d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.281 DUE FOR ANSWER O
03-2002 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)&(b): In a paper prepared by the Planning Commission, it has been suggested that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) should gradually give over its role of MSP related procurement to the private trade and that various restrictions that continue to inhibit private initiatives in the matter of storage, distribution and processing of foodgrains need to be removed. The Planning Commission has also suggested that all forms of monopoly purchase should be phased out.

(c)&(d): The Government of India has appointed a High Level Committee (HLC) to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen. The final report of the HLC is expected shortly. The recommendations made by the HLC will be duly examined and appropriate action taken.